

[GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE CONCLUDED.]

The law of the 10th April, 1835, "to graduate lands on which money is due and unpaid to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," will expire by its own limitation, on the 10th of April next. The object of this law was to encourage the patenting of lands, by proportioning the purchase money payable to the State, to the actual value of the land.—The end aimed at by the Legislature in passing it, has been largely attained, as will appear on comparing the amount of money brought into the Treasury from this source, since its passage, with that of previous years. There are, without doubt, still many tracts similarly situated with those which have already obtained the benefit of the law. I would therefore recommend its further extension, not merely as an act of justice, but as one which will have a good effect on the public revenue.

The lien of the Commonwealth on the land owned by John Nicholson and Peter Baynton, has recently caused some excitement among the citizens claiming that property. It has been the practice for many years for the Governor to appoint agents for the discovery of the Nicholson land with the general powers described in the act of 1825 on the subject. Heretofore the agents, though clothed with general powers of discovery, have confined their researches to a few tracts; but latterly, owing to the increasing value of land in the coal and other regions, they have gone into an investigation of the titles of whole sections of the State, and have thereby introduced general alarm and distrust. Under these circumstances the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in whose office the reports of Nicholson's agents are filed for the final action of the Nicholson Board, has, with my concurrence, adopted a more strict course of proceeding than that heretofore indulged in. The report is now required to set forth a full description of the tracts attempted to be charged with the lien, and an explicit detail of the manner in which it is intended to establish the claim of the State, so as to inform the adverse claimant of the facts necessary to be disproved. This practice, together with the rule adopted by the Nicholson Board, composed of the Attorney General, Auditor General, Surveyor General, and Secretary of the Land Office, not to act on any case of the kind hereafter, except at a full Board, has already checked much of the loose proceedings of the agents, and the excitement of the claimants. The matter is now referred to the Legislature that such measures may be taken as shall be consistent, not only with the claim of the State, but with the safety of land titles, particularly in the coal regions, a matter of far greater importance to the State, than the collection of the balance of the lien. Should the Legislature decline acting on the subject, and should the excitement continue, I may become necessary to supersede the commission of the agents as the only quieting measure in my power.

During the past season, the geological survey of the State, commenced in the spring of 1836, has been regularly and rapidly progressing, in consequence of the additional aid given by the Legislature at its last session. The field of detailed operations has been chiefly confined to the portion of the State lying between the south mountain and the New York state line, and the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers. Other portions of the State have also been explored, in a general manner, preparatory to a more minute survey. It will be perceived, that the operations of the season embrace all the anthracite coal beds, and many of the rich iron deposits of the State. When the formation thus acquired by the chief geologist, shall be laid before the public, which will be as soon as full certainty of results, and the general interests of the survey will admit, it will be beyond a doubt, amply reward the patience and support of the friends of the measure.

No feature in the rich mineral formation of this State is more remarkable, than the vicinity to each other of coal and iron. Frequently, they form different strata of the same hill. Admitted as they are by all, to be the main elements of our wealth, it is at present hardly possible to estimate the advantages which we shall derive from the same union of them in the arts, which Providence has thus formed in their position. When the attempts now making in Clearfield, Lycoming, Schuylkill, and other counties, to smelt iron with mineral coal shall be successful, as they will be, as certainly as it is true, that American ingenuity is equal to that of any other country, the effect will be immensely advantageous over the whole State. Not only will the hitherto barren hills and silent valleys of our mountain ranges, teem with useful population, but the whole agricultural portion of the State, will acquire additional value, from the consequent increased demand for provisions to supply the mining and smelting districts. The public works will find ample employment, and a population four times our present number, will be supported in happiness, because in the enjoyment of competence, produced by honorable and profitable industry.

Every attention should be to the full development of the resources of the State. In this point of view permit me to bespeak your favorable reception of the memorial of the Franklin Institute, which will be laid before you, on the subject of a school of arts and mines. The object is to es-

tablish an institution to afford instruction in the application of the sciences and arts, to the practical business of life, particularly to agriculture, and to teach the correct theory and practice of mining, with the sciences therewith connected. The project is of the deepest importance to the future prosperity of the Commonwealth.

It is necessary to invite the attention of the Legislature to the act of 15th April, 1834, relative to the standards and denominations of weights and measures. That act expired, by its own limitation, on the 15th of last April, before any of the duties enjoined upon the executive were performed. The agency of the Franklin Institute, had been requested and obtained by my predecessors, and the matter has been since continued in the same well qualified hands. The accompanying letter from the chairman of the committee, to whom the subject is now entrusted by the institute, will explain the cause of delay which has occurred, and the proposed cost and manner of accomplishing the object. But as nothing can be done unless the law be re-enacted, permit me to suggest the propriety of that measure.

It has been frequently a reproach to Pennsylvania, that her great staple, coal, is not used on her public works, while neighboring states have it in successful operation. Though it is not by any means certain that mineral coal, particularly of the anthracite kind, has been successfully used to generate steam anywhere on rail roads, at least to any profitable extent, yet the object is one of paramount importance here. A few years more will so thin our forests, that wood, to supply our locomotives and other steam engines, must become scarce. Now is the proper time to provide a substitute. All see that it must be coal. But the use of it for this particular purpose, is not yet sufficiently understood; nor the requisite knowledge ever acquired by state experiments, except at greatly increased expense. I would therefore, advise that inducements be held out by the State, to encourage individuals to embark in the undertaking. Such a stimulus will soon effect the object.

The culture of the mulberry and the production of silk, are now known to be well adapted to the soil and climate of this State. The care of the silk worm is also suited to the other employment of the mass of our population, and the manufacture of the article will add greatly to our wealth. The Legislature endeavored to promote it, by the act of 1832, authorizing the establishment of one silk company in each county; but the means adopted, seem not to have produced the desired result. A company has been chartered in each of the counties of Beaver, Chester, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lebanon and Philadelphia, but without much apparent success; nor is it, perhaps, desirable that they should succeed. The silk business will, undoubtedly, become one of first rate importance among us and will probably be the sooner fairly established, if left to the unrestrained exercise of private enterprise, properly encouraged by the legislature. With this view, I would recommend it at a small premium be offered by the State, for a limited time, on specified quantities of the article, when the production of our own soil and industry.

The accompanying memorial from the "Society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons," will be read with interest as coming from a body that has accompanied so much for humanity in the perfection of the penitentiary system of Pennsylvania. Their object now is, to carry that system in the county prisons, with the view of obviating the demoralizing effect produced by throwing the mere debtor or the new and comparatively guiltless culprit into the same den of vice with the old and hardened offender. It appears that the jails of many of the counties are very old structures; that of Delaware was built in 1724, Lancaster in 1745, York in 1749, Northampton in 1756, and those of Chester and Cumberland at an early day. Most of the others are constructed on the old plan, though recently built. It must therefore be that they are all ill adapted to the increased population and improved prison discipline of the present time. Permit me to recommend this matter to your serious attention, as one intimately connected with the moral welfare of the State.

Perhaps the best measure that could now be adopted would be the passage of a law making it the duty of the Secretary of the Commonwealth to collect from the Sheriffs of the different counties, and report to the next Legislature for their action on the subject, full information of the date of building, size interior arrangements and discipline of all the county prisons in the State, together with the actual and usual numbers of prisoners, whether as debtors, persons accused of crime, or convicts, and the kind, cost and manner of subsisting them. The occasion would also present a fine opportunity for acquiring correct and useful information as to the education, moral culture, and temperate habits of the convicts, so as to exhibit the connexion between ignorance or intemperance and crime. In legislation on the subject, care should however be taken to exclude the idea of an intention to interfere with the rights of debtors, and persons merely confined for trial, by any investigation not necessary to the administration of justice, or by the application to them of the system of involuntary labor.

The law of the 6th April, 1830, imposing a State tax upon proceedings to courts, and

upon deeds, mortgages, letters testamentary and letters of administration, was passed when the public revenue required extraordinary expedients for its increase. The condition and future prospects of the Treasury, are now different. This tax was always much complained of. Paid, as the greater portion of it is, by the already distressed and perhaps impoverished debtor, or by the family of the deceased owner of a limited estate, which, by the law is liable to the same tax as a large one it falls on a portion of society that can least afford it. I would therefore recommend its repeal.

The revision of the civil code lately closed, has introduced some new provisions into the laws of the State, which are not found to operate well in practice and will require further legislation. By the old law of the State, debts due to a person who was himself a debtor, could not be taken in execution by his creditor. By the 22d section of the present act, "relating to executions," this may be done without any limitation. It appears to me, that this power over claims upon others, is calculated in some instances to produce great hardship. I have recently heard of a case, in which the months' earnings, forming the only support of the family of a citizen thus situated, were atatched for an old debt, incurred while he was in other circumstances. Such an unlimited provision could only have been admitted into the law by inadvertence. I would therefore suggest the propriety of exempting a certain portion of the earnings, or the earnings for a designated time, of the debtor, from execution, in the same manner as household utensils, and other necessary articles are now by law exempted. There can be no loss or injustice to the creditor in such a provision, because the honest debtor will voluntarily devote to the payment of his debts, all the money he can spare from the support of his family, which no law should be permitted to interfere with. And the dishonest man, when he finds that his daily labor does not contribute to the supply of his own wants and those of his family, will not labour at all. So that, from the present law, little good will result to the creditor, and much evil may be entailed on the debtor's family and on Society.

I have thus recommended such measures as at present seem to be expedient and necessary. I will not now occupy more of your time, except to say, that it will afford me sincere pleasure to concur in any other means, for the good of the Commonwealth, which the wisdom of the Legislature may devise and adopt.

JOS. RITNER.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

Harrisburg, Dec. 6, 1837.

OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRAT,

NEXT DOOR TO ROBISON'S STAGE OFFICE.

TERMS:

The COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT will be published every Saturday morning, at TWO DOLLARS per annum, payable half yearly in advance, or Two Dollars Fifty Cents, if not paid within the year. No subscription will be taken for a shorter period than six months; nor any discontinuance permitted, until all arrearages are discharged.

ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a square will be conspicuously inserted at One Dollar for the first three insertions, and Twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion. A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year. LETTERS addressed on business, must be post paid.

STORE GOODS AT COST!

THE subscriber is going to remove to the West on the first of January next and would respectfully inform the public that he is now selling off his stock of Merchandise, consisting of

Dry Goods, Hardware, Groceries, Queens-Ware, &c.

At cost, for cash or country Produce, or Lumber

BARNHART BARBE.

Cattawissa, Oct. 14, 1837.

ALL persons indebted to the subscriber are solicited to call and settle immediately, otherwise their accounts will be placed in the hands of an agent for collection.

BARNHART BARBE.

Cattawissa, Oct. 14, 1837.

NEW & CHEAP STORE.

THE subscriber would respectfully inform the public, that he has taken the store recently occupied by Mr. McDowell, in Orangeville, and is now opening and receiving from New York and Philadelphia a splendid assortment of all kinds of

MERCHANDIZE,

which he will dispose of at the most reduced prices for cash or country produce. The public are invited to call and examine for themselves.

WILLIAM FAUX.

Orangeville, Oct. 7, 1837

JOHN S. INGRAM,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

TENDERS his professional services to the citizens of Columbia county. He will feel grateful for business entrusted to his care. Office in the same building with the 'Columbia Democrat.'

Bloomburg, May, 1837.

FUR CAPS, just received, and for sale at the new & cheap store of

J. T. Musselman, & Co.

Orphan's Court Sale.

In pursuance of an order of the Orphan's Court of Columbia county, will be exposed to sale, by public vendue or outcry, on Monday, the first day of January next, the following described real property, to wit: A certain

TRACT OF LAND,

situate in the township of Madison, Columbia county, bounded by lands of William Ginton, Esq. John Heller, John Bilheim, and others, containing about Eighty-Four Acres, about two-thirds of which is cleared land, and on which are erected a

A LOG HOUSE, AND A BANK BARN, a LOG STABLE, a SPRING-HOUSE, and other out-buildings. A good spring of water is convenient to the dwelling, and on the premises is an excellent

PEACH & APPLE ORCHARD, containing a choice selection of fruit. The land is watered with numerous springs, and about FIVE ACRES of which is good meadow ground.

The sale will commence at 10 o'clock of said day, on the premises, when due attendance will be given, and terms of sale made known, by

WILLIAM GINTON, Adm'r.

December 9, 1837.

OYSTERS!!

A general supply of FRESH OYSTERS may always be obtained during the season, by applying at the Refectory of the subscriber in Bloomburg.

JOHN R. MOYER.

December 2, 1837.

SILK, SATIN, FUR AND RUSSIA HATS!!

OF the most durable materials, and finished in a superior and fashionable style, at from \$2 to \$3 each, just received and for sale at the store of

C. B. FISHER.

Bloomburg, December 2, 1837.

The Estate of ADAM WELLIVER, late of Madison Township, Columbia county, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given, that Letters of Administration have been granted to the subscribers on said estate. Therefore all persons having claims against said estate, are requested to present them, and those indebted are requested to make immediate payment.

Cah Thomas,

Thomas Welliver,

Administrators

November 17, 1837.

The Estate of JOHN KITCHEN, late of Madison township, Columbia county, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given, that Letters Testamentary have been granted to the subscribers on the estate of said deceased. Therefore all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present them, and those indebted are requested to make immediate payment.

Nancy Kitchen, Executrix,

Richard Demott, Executor.

November 17, 1837.

LIVERY AND EXCHANGE.

VERY respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has always on hand, at his Livery Stable in Bloomburg, for the purposes of Hire or Exchange, a variety of

Horses, Sulkies,

GIGS, WAGGONS AND SLEIGHS,

which he will feel gratified to keep in readiness for the accommodation of customers. Personal application can be made at his residence, when every means will be used to render entire satisfaction to those who may give him a call.

NOAH S. PRENTIS.

Bloomburg, November 4, 1837.

INSURANCE AGAINST FIRE.

THE DELAWARE COUNTY

Insurance Company.

Capital authorised by Law, \$250,000.

CHARTER PERPETUAL.

THE public are respectfully informed, that this Company will make insurance, either permanent or limited, on property and effects of every description, against loss or damage by fire, on the most reasonable terms, at their office in Chester Delaware county, Pennsylvania.

The citizens of Columbia county are hereby informed, that insurances by the above Company of every description of property, can be effected by applying to the undersigned agent, in Cattawissa. The following are the annual Rates of Insurance on the \$100, upon the most Common description of property, viz:

Stone or Brick dwelling houses	30 to 40 cents
Frame or Log do.	60 to 75 "
Brick or Stone barns,	50 to 62 1/2 "
Frame or Log do.	75 to 100 "
Brick or Stone Grist Mills,	62 1/2 to 100 "
Frame do.	75 to 100 "

Merchandise and furniture contained in houses and grain and utensils in mills and barns, in proportion. Information can be had by applying either personally, or by letter, post paid, to

ELIZA S. HAYHURST, Agent.

Cattawissa, September 30, 1837.

BAR IRON, Just received, and for sale at the new & cheap store of

J. T. Musselman, & Co.

November 4, 1837.

New & Cheap Goods,

AT THE

BLOOMBURG ARCADE.



RUPERT & BARTON,
(Successors to E. H. Biggs.)

RESPECTFULLY announce to their friends and the public, that they have purchased from E. H. Biggs his interest in the store formerly kept by him, and that they have just received an extensive and splendid assortment of

Fall & Winter Goods,

which they are now opening for the examination and accommodation of Customers, at the New Store House, just constructed by Mr. Biggs, and opposite to Mr. Robinson's stage office. Their assortment is not only very extensive, but carefully selected to answer the demands of the neighborhood; and although they wish not to revise their prices, yet they feel confident that they have better goods, and will sell cheaper than any store in Bloomburg.

Their new stock has been purchased at the manufacturers' establishments, at the very lowest prices, and consists of

DRY GOODS,

SUCH AS

Blue, Black, Brown, Invisible Green, and Fancy coloured Cloths, Cassimeres and Sattinets; Silks, Merinos, Ginghams, and Calicoes; Linens and Muslins; Vestings, Stocks,

LADIES' BONNETS,



In fine, they have every thing which necessity or fancy may desire from a yard of tape to the finest article in Dry Goods, and from a needle to a store in Hardware.— Their stock of

HARDWARE, IRON,

China, Glass,

QUEENSWARE:

PAINTS,

Groceries & Liquors.

Oils, Salt and Fish, Hollow-ware,

&c. &c. &c.

is more extensive and better selected than the same articles in any of the neighbouring stores.

Those who wish new, cheap, and good articles of Merchandise, should call at the "Bloomburg Arcade" either before or after examining elsewhere, and make their purchases.

All kinds of Country Produce taken in payment at the highest market prices.

Bloomburg, Nov. 18, 1837.

NEW GOODS.

The Subscriber

HAS just received from Philadelphia, a fresh assortment of GOODS, which have been purchased very low, and are now offered to customers at reduced prices. An excellent article of Coffee is now offered at twelve and a half cents per pound—first quality of New Orleans Sugar at ten cents, and second quality at eight cents per pound. He has also large and full assortment of

Iron & Hollow-Ware, which he offers at the lowest prices. The public are respectfully invited to call and examine his assortment.

All kinds of country produce will be taken in exchange for goods.

C. B. FISHER.

Bloomburg, Aug. 19, 1837.

STONE-COAL,

OF a superior quality, just received and for sale by the subscriber.

C. B. FISHER.

Bloomburg, Aug. 6, 1837.

Salt! Salt!

25 BARRELS of Lake Salt, and a large quantity of Ground Alum Salt, just received, and for sale at the cheap store of

J. T. Musselman, & Co.

Nov. 11, 1837.

STOVES.

JUST received and for sale at the store of the subscriber, splendid assortment of WOOD STOVES, both plain and with Boilers. Also an assortment of round and square Coal Stoves of different sizes.

C. B. FISHER.

Bloomburg, Sept. 20, 1837.

MERINOS!

8 Pieces of Assorted Merinos, double width—and an assortment of Black Merinos, of a very superior quality, just opened and for sale at the New and Cheap Store of the subscribers in Bloomburg.

J. T. Musselman, & Co.

October 21, 1837.